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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 8, 1946

No. 153

THE WAR AGAINST STARVATION. . . . Government agencies concerned have now reached the agreement that the campaign to conserve food will be conducted under one program tentatively called the Famine Emergency Campaign and that consumers will be asked to do two specific things: (1) Cut waste and eat less wheat products, fats and oils--substituting foods that are plentiful, and (2) Produce and preserve (farm production, Victory gardens, and home food preservation).

Representatives of food trade organizations met with Secretary Anderson March 7 in Washington, at his request, to discuss the specific program on food conservation recommended by the Famine Emergency Committee named by President Truman last week. The Secretary asked that the representatives submit proposals and suggestions for meeting the objectives of a program to conserve food.

At the first meeting of the Famine Emergency Committee at the White House March 1, Secretary Anderson and other government officials pictured for the group the tragic food conditions in many countries. The Committee accepted the invitation of Secretary Anderson to organize itself into a continuing committee to help him in formulating a detailed program calling for voluntary cooperation by American people. A one-fourth reduction in consumption of wheat and wheat products by Americans is the estimated need.

Latest specific actions taken to help the food situation include:

- (1) Changes in subsidies and price ceilings of livestock and grains announced by USDA and OPA with the approval of OES. The purpose of the changes is to help adjust livestock feeding to the reduced supplies of feed grains and encourage more prompt marketing of grain supplies. For other details, see Press Release 465.
- (2) Certain increases in the set aside of pork, beef, veal, and mutton, announced by USDA (Press Release 449).
- (3) Restrictions on wheat millfeeds announced (Press Release 484).
- (4) A poultry price-support program announced to aid producers in marketing their poultry because of the feed emergency (Press Release 488).
- (5) 9-point program for railroads to break box-car shortage in 30 days, announced by the Director of ODT (ODT Release 1024).

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SECRETARY ANDERSON is scheduled to speak March 18 at the annual dinner of the Jackson County Farm Bureau at Independence, Mo.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL INTEREST. . . . U. S. guinea pigs to aid veterinary service in Europe--432; International cotton standards conference to be held April 8--435; Order restricts brewers' use of grain--436; CCC cotton stock sales put on bid basis--442; Government to export cotton to Japan--444; World's 1945 rye crop small--451; Meat set-aside provisions announced--449; USDA finds new insecticide valuable to cotton planters--452; 50 research achievement sheets now issued--467; USDA-OPA announce livestock-grain changes--465; Report on White House meeting of Famine Committee--468; Excess wheat provision of WFO 144 announced--466; India submits food needs to Combined Food Board--478; WFO 4.11 terminated, control Burley tobacco allocations--460; Fish production goals set--483; Restrictions on wheat millfeeds announced--484; Secretary Anderson announced poultry price support program--488; and the following speeches by Department officials:

* Rural Electrification in the Nation's Farm Program, Secretary *
* Anderson before Nat'l Rural Electric Cooperative Association, *
* Buffalo, N. Y., March 4; and REA's Contribution to the National *
* Welfare, by REA Administrator Claude R. Wickard to same group, *
* March 5. *
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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . 1946 tobacco crop may be subject to price control--OPA-6277; Current flour ceilings not changed because of new higher extraction percentage and WFO 144--OPA-6279; Corn and processed grains regulations changed to help restore normal distribution by country elevators and carload sellers--OPA-6281; Spare stamp 9 good March 11 for canning sugar--other 1946 sugar provisions--OPA-6283; Ceiling prices on white potatoes to remain suspended from March 7 through April 7--OPA-6288; ODT director suggests to railroads 9-point program designed to break present box-car shortage in 30 days--ODT-1024.

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USDA-CHURCH LEADER MEETING. . . . A group of agricultural and church leaders will meet with USDA agency representatives on March 12 and 13 here in the South Building. The conference will be of a round-table nature with no formal program. The discussions are expected to cover the following topics: (1) Rural programs of churches, (2) USDA services to rural churches, (3) problems and programs of mutual concern to agricultural agencies and the rural church, (4) suggestions for future cooperative relationships, and (5) possible use of USDA educational and informational materials by rural church groups.

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FARM SAFETY PLANS. . . . The Department's committee on National Farm Safety met with representatives of the Advertising Council in Chicago last week to make plans for stressing safety on the farm and observing National Farm Safety Week July 21-28. The Department is preparing mats of 3 ads for the use of National Editor Association members, a pledge for farmers to sign in the form of a small window sticker, and a general farm safety manual. Newspapers will tell about the manual and suggest that it can be obtained from the Department. The National Safety Council will furnish the Department a poster for distribution in the campaign.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . Feb. 28, the House debated the Patman housing bill which provides for price control and subsidies; House passed a bill to continue the farm bankruptcy act; the House Rules Committee reported a resolution to waive points of order on agricultural appropriation bill. March 1, both Houses appointed conferees on a measure authorizing 1946 crop program subsidies; Senate passed the urgent deficiency appropriation bill. March 4, both Houses received the report of the joint committee on the re-organization of Congress and received proposed legislation for two additional Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture; House passed a bill to provide for the inspection of process or renovated butter materials. March 5, a Senate committee reported the bill to continue the farm bankruptcy act; the House passed the second urgent deficiency bill. March 6, House closed debate on the Patman housing bill.

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COTTON TO JAPAN. . . . Another outlet for our short staple cotton, more cotton goods in this country, and obvious advantages to Japan are seen in the recently announced government program to provide that country with raw cotton in exchange for textiles manufactured from it (Press Release 444). Until private trading, now forbidden for security reasons is again permitted, the only way of regaining the Japanese market is through government handling. About a fourth of our cotton exports went to Japan before the war, most of which was short staple. CCC stocks of cotton will be shipped to a Japanese government agency designated and supervised by the Allied Supreme Commander in Japan. This market will take about 200,000 bales of CCC cotton within a month. Secretary Anderson is considering the possibility of starting similar programs in other countries.

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GARDEN NEWS. . . . Secretary Anderson has called a conference of national garden leaders in the Department on March 26, 27, and 28. He has wired all State governors asking that they appeal to home gardeners and re-enlist the support of all State and local officials and organizations as the "effectiveness of this program in a large measure depends upon their help." He also wired mayors of the larger cities asking for their cooperation. The garden campaign this year will be closely linked with the President's emergency food program.

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Suggestion! Tear this Radio Schedule off and keep it for ready reference.

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RADIO - MARCH 16. . . . NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, 1:00 p.m., EST. Summary of the week's news developments in the USDA, for farmers, entitled "Department of Agriculture Headlines."

AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, 12:30 p.m., EST. Features John Baker's weekly report to farmers, entitled "The Business Side of Farming."

CONSUMER TIME, NBC, 12:15 p.m., EST. The story behind the label "Packed Under Continuous Inspection of the U. S. Department of Agriculture,"--on canned and frozen foods. Consumers also hear what U. S. Grade labels mean, on USDA's weekly dramatic show.

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WITH 4-H CLUBS. . . . This is National 4-H Club week and one feature in its celebration was a breakfast at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D. C., on March 6, given by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. A 4-H Club girl and boy spoke to the group about what the Club means to them, what they intend to do to help in the world food crisis, and the like. Those present included top officials of USDA and other government agencies, the Chairman of the House and the Senate Agricultural Committees, and key members of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work. 4-H Club members and other non-profit educational groups can secure Army Signal Corps homing pigeons just returned from the war until April 1. The birds must be obtained through the War Assets Corporation by request from county extension agents in minimum orders of 10 pairs. The boys and girls pay transportation expenses.

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PLENTIFUL FOODS FOR APRIL. . . . Foods expected to be plentiful in April throughout the greater part of the country include eggs, chickens, large turkeys, potatoes, fresh citrus fruits, cauliflower, and fresh and frozen fish (except shellfish.) Varieties of fresh and frozen fish most plentiful will vary in different localities. The refrigerator car shortage, though still critical, has been eased somewhat, and with favorable weather conditions shipments of perishable food should reach consuming areas with less difficulty. However, it is possible that abundant supplies of these plentiful foods may not be available in all local markets.

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PAN AMERICAN DAY. . . . The slogan for the 16th annual Pan American Day April 14, is "Free and United--the Americas Go Forward." Various U. S. government agencies are planning appropriate observance of the day. Secretary Anderson has pointed out that it is especially suitable for farm people and USDA to observe it. A four-page fact sheet entitled "Agriculture in the Americas" is being prepared by OFAR explaining the importance of inter-American cooperation in agriculture, suggesting ways to emphasize the day, and listing available program helps. The fact sheet will be available from OFAR within the next few days.

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LATEST RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS. . . . Recent research achievement is described in three more 2-page reports as follows:
R.A.S. 49, Improved Machines Make Fiber-Flax Production More Economical,
R.A.S. 50, Seed-Cotton Drying Process and Equipment Improved, and
R.A.S. 51, Flaxseed Production Established in California and Arizona.
Copies of these research achievement sheets may be obtained from ARA.

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RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS. . . . Changes in Lemons During Storage as Affected by Air Circulation and Ventilation, Tech. Bul. No. 908, Canker Stain of Planetrees, Circ. No. 742, 12 p.; Annual Report on Tobacco Statistics-1945, CS-16, 97 p.; Postwar Packages and Containers for Marketing Foods, 64 p., proc., by Interbureau Committee on Postwar Programs.

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